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(19) **United States**(12) **Patent Application Publication** (10) **Pub. No.: US 2004/0039643 A1**
McNicol et al. (43) **Pub. Date: Feb. 26, 2004**(54) **DATA DISTRIBUTION NETWORK AND METHOD OF USE****Publication Classification**(51) **Int. Cl.⁷** **G06F 17/60**(52) **U.S. Cl.** **705/14**(76) Inventors: **John D. McNicol**, Rancho Santa Margarita, CA (US); **Fred E. Bearden III**, Laguna Niguel, CA (US)(57) **ABSTRACT**

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(63) Continuation of application No. 09/481,778, filed on Jan. 11, 2000, now Pat. No. 6,615,179, which is a continuation-in-part of application No. 09/241,937, filed on Feb. 2, 1999, now Pat. No. 6,347,301.

A data distribution network for distributing data stores up-to-date or even real-time data in a central computer and disseminates the data through a plurality of data distribution nodes to a plurality of hand-held computers. The data distribution network distributes current or even real-time data to consumers and travelers directly to the location where the consumers and travelers are likely to require the data. The data distribution network can function completely automatically, in real-time, and without any effort or expertise on the part of the consumer or traveler. The data distribution network enables several novel methods of attracting and retaining consumers to a specific commercial location and travelers to a specific hotel or travel agency.

